

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the amendment be entered because they place the application in condition for allowance, or at least because they do not require further search or consideration, and because they narrow the issue for appeal.

Claim 19 is currently being amended.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 19-25 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 19-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,507 to Uda et al. (hereafter “Uda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,361,141 to Aoyama (hereafter “Aoyama”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 19 is directed to an image forming apparatus. Claim 19 includes both a synthesizing means for synthesizing first image data (based on the image data from a document) with second image data produced by an operating condition image producing means. The image forming apparatus of claim 19 also includes a means for controlling an image formation means of the apparatus to form an image corresponding to the first and second image data synthesized by the synthesizing means on a sheet of paper. Thus, the apparatus of claim 19 includes structure such that: (1) image data based on a read document is synthesized with operating condition image data, and (2) the synthesized data is formed on a sheet of paper.

The structure of the image forming apparatus of claim 19 provides advantages, not suggested by either Udo or Aoyama. Specifically, the image processing apparatus of claim 19 enables a serviceperson, who may repair or adjust the apparatus, to determine the cause of any image quality degradation without relying on his or her level of experience. With the

apparatus of claim 19, the operating condition information, which determines image quality, is formed on the sheet of paper along with an image based on other image data. Thus, a serviceperson can readily find in one place (the sheet of paper) both the image and the operating conditions, so adjustment can be made quickly and effectively.

Uda and Aoyama, either alone or in combination, fail to suggest the invention of claim 19 or its attendant advantages in aiding a serviceperson in servicing the apparatus.

While Uda discloses transmitting status information, such as paper out or paper jam, to a printer 104 (col. 4, lines 63-65), neither the status information nor the print commands, are printed on a sheet of paper. Thus, Uda fails to suggest structure for forming both first image data and second image data (as recited in claim 19) on a sheet of paper, where the second image data is indicative of operating conditions. Furthermore, Uda does not disclose synthesizing first image data with second image data, for formation on a sheet of paper.

Acknowledging the failure of Uda to disclose such a synthesizing means, the Office Action points to Aoyama as allegedly disclosing a “synthesizing means for synthesizing the first image data with the second image data.” Aoyama, however, does not suggest synthesizing first image data with second image data and then forming the synthesized data on a sheet of paper. Aoyama discloses displaying various developed display data such as images of a document and edit data (which is not disclosed as being indicative of operating conditions) on a single screen (Figure 1(a), col. 4, lines 39-51), not on a sheet of paper as recited in claim 19. Thus, even if Aoyama were combined with Uda the result would not meet the limitations of claim 19.

Moreover, neither Uda nor Aoyama suggest the advantages provided by the present invention in aiding the work of a serviceperson, where the operating condition information, which determines image quality, is formed on the same sheet of paper as other image data. Uda fails to disclose forming both operating condition information and other image data on the same sheet of paper. Aoyama discloses forming edit data (not disclosed as indicative of operating conditions) on a single screen, with images of a document. Displaying images on a screen, however, does not help a serviceman in performing service to the extent that forming images on a sheet of paper would. Qualities such as sharpness, color tone and darkness of an

compared to being formed on a sheet of paper. Thus, one skilled in the art would not look to observing images on a screen when monitoring such qualities.

The dependent claims, 20-25, all depend from claim 19 and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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